

Laboratory Certification Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes From 11/13/2012

Attendance

Council Members: Randy Thater (Chair), Kirsti Sorsa (Vice-Chair), Kurt Birkett (Secretary), Jennifer Peth (via LIVEMeeting), Pat Gorski, Paul Junio. *Absent: Paul Harris*

DNR Staff: Camille Turcotte, Rick Mealy

Others in Attendance: Sharon Mertens (Milwaukee MSD)

Others via LiveMeeting: Tom Hungerford (S-F Analytical) (via LIVEMeeting)

Minutes from meeting of August 14, 2012

- o **Action:** *A motion (Junio/Birkett) to approve the August 14, 2012 minutes as presented was unanimously approved.*

Program Performance Status Report for FY 2013 Year-to-Date

- Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **12** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **30** (92)
- Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **9** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **27** (92)
 - o Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: **6**; Municipal/Industrial: **6**
- Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **4** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **25** (92)
 - o Open Cases - Commercial/Public Health: **17**; Municipal/Industrial: **46**
- o For the fiscal year 2013 to-date, **71.0%** of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days
- o Sharon Mertens asked how the program is handling dioxin labs now. Camille Turcotte responded that Tom Trainor has been trained in dioxin analysis and will be covering those labs. Three audits were completed this fall.

Budget Variance Report

- o The following information was reported to the Council for the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2012:

| | Spent \$ | Budgeted \$ | % of Budget |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| FY 2012 BUDGET | \$ 141,356 | \$ 598,259 | 25.0% |
| Salary/Fringe | \$ 122,271 | \$ 514,059 | 24.5% |
| Supplies & IT | \$ 19,085 | \$ 84,200 | 28.1% |

Allocables through September 2012: \$19,840 (14.0% of total budget, 24.7% of salary line.

Annual Open Issues Review

- o Paul Junio commented that Dave Kliber is concerned that the Open Issues will get lost moving forward. Council members expressed confidence that we could remove this as a standing annual agenda items and re-visit it as information surfaces.

Other DNR Business

- o Variances - No variance requests were received.
- o Lapse – The agency is lapsing about \$42,000 from our budget. The Bureau of Science Services will cover it this year, but we are expected to budget for the lapse in Fiscal 2014 and 2015.
- o WWOA update - The program had representation in the form of a workshop on Lab Basics and co-presenters at two oral sessions.
- o Lab of the Year changes – Ms. Turcotte announced that due to a continued decline in nominations, only a single award will be presented this year.
- o PT Provider (PTP) concern – Camille contacted A2LA about a concern we had regarding a PTP. A2LA is conducting an audit and they will report back to us with their findings.

- NR 149 update – Received Governor approval to move forward, but this must take a backseat to NR 219. There are not expected to be wholesale changes, merely cleaning up language. The program is interested in input from the Council and lab community. In the winter and spring of 2013, we will be looking at the code. Sharon Mertens asked if we would be holding meetings. Paul Junio suggested that we consider holding an afternoon roundtable discussion after a Council meeting
- NR 219 – Slowly working on this rule package in coordination with Watershed Management Program. Changes will mirror the Federal Register. Must submit an economic impact assessment.
- NR 809 – We received approval to add a statement which would refer back to NR 149 and we would publish a list of methods that are approved at the federal level yet which have not been incorporated into NR 809. This should occur this fall.
- LabNotes – The program is finally working on a new edition. If the Council would like to include a short article, we would have to have something soon. Turcotte indicated that she had all of the staff in her section work on articles. She also announced that LabNotes will be delivered electronically to avoid paper and mailing costs.
- Technology Meetings – Turcotte announced that the program began holding internal, informal technology information sharing sessions, starting with BOD in November. She indicated that this will continue as we find time. It allows auditors to keep working together.
- Test Reports – This issue came up during review of auditor reports. The code (NR 149) is quite specific regarding what information must be included with test reports. An exception is for cases where labs obtain documentation from each client that they do not require all information specified in code. The program will allow data to be provided to clients in a DMR-like format. More information will be included in the upcoming edition of LabNotes.
- Program vacancy – The intent was to begin the hiring process this month. Given budget constraints and the allocables issue, however, we are looking into alternatives, including hiring another contract auditor to help with commercial lab audits. We are looking into it and will report back to the Council.
- Radiologicals in drinking water – EPA Region V has always handled radiological certifications but that practice will be discontinued. Currently, we lack statutory authority of offer radiological accreditation, and it would require a significant rule change to do so. NR 809 allows us to accept data from a lab certified by or approved by the EPA. We are working with EPA to provide some assertion that they approve (e.g.) NELAC accredited labs. This is happening with Cryptosporidium accreditation as well. EPA's involvement will expire in 2014; DATCP currently holds authority to take over Cryptosporidium accreditation.

Council Member Issues

- Smaller sample volumes for extractable organics – Paul Junio raised a concern that certain laboratories are advertising and providing only 125 mL sample containers for extractable organics testing. They are taking advantage of the flexibility offered in SW-846 methods to reduce both sample and solvent volumes. He is specifically concerned that this practice is extending to DRO, which requires a one liter extraction volume.

NOTE: Subsequent to the Council meeting and following a review with program staff, we found that the reduced sample and solvent volume option had been extended to at least one lab as part of their on-site evaluation based on extensive review of documentation maintained by the laboratory. This flexibility will be afforded to all labs accredited for DRO. An article to this effect was included in the current edition of LabNotes.

Next Meeting Date

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison).*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am, CST